

S.O. 22

The spill of PCBs along the Trans-Canada Highway last spring illustrated for all of Canada the need for thorough and enforceable environmental protection legislation. The fact that those responsible for that spill did not come to court to answer the charges is an affront to the people of northwestern Ontario and the people of the country. It is an affront to all who have had to put up with this irresponsible activity, and to the laws of this country and the Province of Ontario. It clearly illustrates the need for tighter registration and bonding of carriers of dangerous goods.

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POLITICAL PARTIES

NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY—EMPLOYMENT OF UNITED STATES POLLING COMPANY

Mr. Bob Pennock (Etotobicoke North): Mr. Speaker, last Friday I was shocked, as I know all Canadians who read the Canadian Press report were, to learn that the NDP, the supposed defenders of Canadian jobs, have been employing a U.S. pollster for the last 18 months when there are Canadian firms that can do the job.

Mr. Blaikie: What's the matter? Are you anti-American?

Mr. Pennock: This comment is according to their own Party's secretary in British Columbia.

Mr. Blaikie: They are our best friends.

Mr. Pennock: Is this the same Party that sits here, day in and day out, accusing the Government and the Prime Minister of selling out to the United States or allowing Americans to take away Canadian jobs? What hypocrisy!

Mr. Blaikie: You are anti-American.

Mr. Pennock: While the NDP has been blowing hot air, we in the Government has been creating jobs for ordinary Canadians; 333,000 of them since the election.

Mr. Blaikie: I want it on the record that he is anti-American.

Mr. Pennock: On the two major obstacles to economic recovery we have achieved significant results since the election. Unemployment has fallen from 11.6 per cent to 10.3 per cent, and for the first time in four years the federal deficit is showing signs of shrinking rather than expanding. If the NDP strives to be a credible Opposition, it should at least be consistent in its own hiring and practise what it preaches.

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

CALL FOR RESTORATION OF CALGARY AFTERNOON RADIO PROGRAM

Mrs. Barbara Sparrow (Calgary South): Mr. Speaker, a matter has been brought to my attention concerning a change in afternoon programming on the CBC AM radio in Calgary. The former 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. time slot was looked on as an oasis of relaxation, with a solid core of easy listening and interestingly varied music which was interspaced with quiet comments by a knowledgeable host. The change has been dramatic! Unhappy callers refer to music that is ear-splitting and raucous, and to a hostess who constantly interrupts with personal opinions. Most of the callers are from households which have been long-time supporters of the CBC, and they feel these changes have taken away the core of their pleasure in CBC listening.

[Translation]

I strongly urge the Minister to raise the matter with the President of the CBC in order to restore the afternoon programming to comply with the tastes of its listeners.

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[English]

PUBLIC SERVICE

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS—EFFECT OF CUT-BACKS

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry-Prescott-Russell): Mr. Speaker, I have received a number of letters from people in the country and I would like to read one of them to you. It concerns Public Service cut-backs. It says:

Dear Sir,

I wish to strongly voice my opposition to the recently announced cut-backs, lay-offs and contracting out in Veterans' Affairs.

In the *House of Commons Debates* for October 17, 1985, page 7754 on "Public Service—Career Planning for Employees Facing Layoffs (B) Job Security", Mr. Doug Lewis (Parliamentary Secretary to President of Treasury Board) is quoted as saying:

"We appreciate that this is a delicate matter but there does not appear to be long lines of people pounding at our doors saying that they have been mistreated."

Consider me in line, pounding at your door! Service to veterans is why Veterans Affairs exists. Any cut-backs reduces that service.

This letter is signed by Mrs. Jeanne M. Bowles. I have similar letters from Mrs. Margaret Taylor, Sandra Messer, Agnes Marquis, Patricia Lamb, Louise Bolduc, and Gail Robertson, all employees of the Department in the area of Saint John, New Brunswick.

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CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

CUTTING OF AUXILIARY SERVICE AT GILLAM, MAN.

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, last weekend Canadian National announced that it would be cutting auxiliary service at Gillam, Manitoba. The auxiliary is an emergen-